

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 DHA-02 IO-13 ACDA-07 OMB-01 EB-07 TRSE-00
AID-05 IGA-02 /092 W
-----130632Z 044908 /10

R 130540Z JUN 77

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3128
INFO AMEMBASSY JAKARTA
AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR
AMEMBASSY MANILA
AMEMBASSY SEOUL
AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGKOK 12816

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, MARR, PFOR, VM, TH, KS, US

SUBJECT: US ARMS SALES POLICY; US GROUND FORCE WITHDRAWAL
FROM KOREA; US-SRV TALKS

REF: (A) STATE 121529 (B) STATE 115244 (C) STATE 115409
(D) STATE 131482 (E) STATE 130459 (F) BANGKOK 12633

1. EMBASSY POLITICAL COUNSELOR USED OCCASION OF CALL
JUNE 10 ON NEW DIRECTOR GENERAL OF POLITICAL DEPARTMENT,
MFA, TO DISCUSS US ARMS SALES
POLICY (REF B), US-SRV TALKS (REF D) AND GROUND TROOPS
WITHDRAWALS FROM KOREA (REF E).

2. US-SRV TALKS - IN ADDITION TO MAKING POINTS CONTAINED
REF D, WE LEFT AN AIDE-MEMOIRE DRAWING ON REFERENCE.
DORECTOR GENERAL OBVIOUSLY WAS PLEASED THAT USG WAS
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MAKING EFFORT BOTH HERE AND IN WASHINGTON TO KEEP RTG
INFORMED OF MATTER IN WHICH IT TAKES KEEN INTEREST.

3. TROOP WITHDRAWAL FROM KOREA - AFTER LISTENING TO OUR
BRIEF ON TROOP WITHDRAWALS (WHICH AMBASSADOR HAD ALSO MADE
KOREAN AND JAPANESE REACTION. POLCOUNSELOR NOTED THAT KOREANS
HAD EXPRESSED RESERVATIONS BUT ACCEPTED OUR PROPOSALS ON WITH-

DRAWAL OF TROOPS. HE EXPLAINED THAT WITHDRAWAL WOULD BE CARRIED OUT OVER FOUR TO FIVE-YEAR PERIOD AND WITH FULL CONSULTATIONS WITH BOTH KOREAN AND JAPANESE GOVERNMENTS, WHILE US CONTINUED FORCE MODERNIZATION PROGRAM TO UPGRADE KOREAN CAPABILITIES. HE FURTHER CONVEYED THE ESSENCE OF PARA 5 REF E REGARDING ROK AND GOJ REACTION.

4. US ARMY POLICY - IN ADDITION TO PASSING TEXT OF US ARMS POLICY ANNOUNCEMENT (REF C) WE LEFT AIDE-MEMOIRE LISTING MAIN POINTS OF REFS A AND B. AFTER INQUIRING ABOUT SOME OF THE BASIC ASPECTS OF US MILITARY ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS WITH WHICH HE WAS NOT ESPECIALLY FAMILIAR, OWAT FOCUSED ON THE QUESTION THAT IS CLEARLY CAUSING THE RTG A GREAT DEAL OF CONCERN - THE IMPENDING HEARINGS BY CONGRESSMAN FRASER'S SUBCOMMITTEE ON THE SUBJECT OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN THAILAND (SEE REF F). OWAT HAD A TELEGRAM FROM THAI EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON WHICH INDICATED THAT STEWART MEACHAM OF AMERICAN FRIENDS SERVICE AND PROF. DAVID MOREEL OF PRINCETON WERE TO TESTIFY AT HEARINGS. POL CONSELOR EXPLAINED THAT EMBASSY HAD JUST LEARNED OF HEARINGS AND HAS ASKED WASHINGTON FOR MORE DETAILS. WE POINTED OUT THAT SUCH HEARINGS WERE LOGICAL OUTGROWTH OF SECURITY ASSISTANCE LEGISLATION WHICH CONTAINED SECTIONS ON HUMAN RIGHTS AND DISCRIMINATION AND OF PRESIDENT CARTER'S AND CONGRESSMAN FRASER'S CONCERN OVER AND DEEP INTEREST IN QUESTIONS OF HUMAN RIGHTS. WE ASSURED THE DIRECTOR GENERAL THAT THERE WOULD BE FULL OPPORTUNITY TO RESPOND TO ANY QUESTIONS THE SUBCOMMITTEE MIGHT SUBMIT TO THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH AS A RESULT OF THE HEARINGS. OWAT PROFESSED TO THE LESS CONCERNED OVER THE LINKAGE BETWEEN CONFIDENTIAL

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HUMAN RIGHTS AND SECURITY ASSISTANCE THAN DAMAGE THAT MIGHT BE DONE TO THAILAND'S INTERNATIONAL IMAGE BY THE HEARINGS. WE AGREED THAT CRITICAL TESTIMONY WAS LIKELY BUT NOTED THAT THE EMBASSY HAS SUPPLIED THE STATE DEPARTMENT WITH THE MOST RECENT INFORMATION ON THE POLITICAL SITUATION AND NUMBERS OF DETAINEES IN THAILAND AND THAT SENIOR EXECUTIVE AND LEGISLATIVE BRANCH REPRESENTATIVES HAD THE BENEFIT OF RECENT VISITS TO THAILAND TO DRAW THEIR OWN CONCLUSIONS. WHITEHOUSE

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